

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13128 081101Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
DEAE-00 SP-02 IO-13 AID-05 /046 W
-----041332 081317Z /45

R 081030Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECSTATE WASHDC 4216
INS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 13128

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK DATED MAY 4 RPTD
URSTA:

QUOTE
CHIANG MAI 171

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, TH, I

SUBJECT: THAI POLICY TOWARDS LAOTIAN REFUGEES

SUMMARY: DISTRICT OFFICIALS IN CHIANG KHAM TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT
THAI GOVERNMENT POLICY AS THEY UNDERSTAND IT IS STILL THAT
OF PREVENTING NEW REFUGEES FROM ENTERING THAILAND. IN CHIANG
KHAM AT LEAST A DOZEN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN SENT BACK ACROSS
THE BORDER. END OF SUMMARY.

1. DISTRICT OFFICIALS IN THE TOWN OF CHIANG KHAM TOLD US

YESTERDAY THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNOW THE THAI GOVERNMENT
POLICY IS STILL THAT OF PREVENTING NEW REFUGEES FROM
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ENTERING THE COUNTRY. THEY STATED THAT WHILE THEY ARE
NOT PERSONALLY IN ACCORD WITH THAT POLICY THEY BELIEVE
THEY ARE OBLIGATED TO SEND SUCH REFUGEES BACK INTO LAOS. THEY
STATE THAT LAST MONTH TWELVE HILLTRIBE REFUGEES WERE INTERCEPTED
AND ORDERED TO RETURN BACK TO LAOS.

2. IN DOING SO THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT WITH LAO GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS BY CHIANG KHAM DISTRICT OFFICIALS. IT IS
SIMPLY A QUESTION OF INTERCEPTING PEOPLE WHO HAVE
CROSSED THE BORDER AND ORDERING THEM TO RETURN BACK
ACROSS THE BORDER. (THE DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER STATED
THAT AT ONE TIME IN THE PAST DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAD
WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE LAO OFFICIALS PROPOSING PRO-
CEDURES FOR RETURNING REFUGEES, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO
RESPONSE TO THE LETTER.)

3. CHIANG KHAM'S BORDER WITH LAOS IS IN A REMOTE
MOUNTAINOUS AREA INFESTED WITH COMMUNIST INSURGENTS.
THERE IS LITTLE IF ANY THAI GOVERNMENT PRESENCE ALONG
THE BORDER, AND APPARENTLY NO LAO GOVERNMENT PRESENCE
ON THE OTHER SIDE. THEREFORE, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY
THAT ANY REFUGEES CROSSING INTO THAILAND IN THAT AREA
ARE GOING TO MEET OR MAKE CONTACT WITH THAI GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS UNLESS THEY SPECIFICALLY SEEK OUT SUCH
OFFICIALS IN AN ATTEMPT TO TURN THEMSELVES IN
SO THAT THEY CAN BE ALLOWED INTO THE REFUGEE
CAMP AT CHIANG KHAM.

4. HMK COMMANDER OF THE REFUGEE CAMP AT CHIANG KHAM
INSISTS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW REFUGEES ALLOWED
INTO THE CAMP IN RECENT WEEKS. SIGNED TANNER.
UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: REFUGEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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